

We claim:

1. A stackable wall panel assembly comprising:
a lower wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending
opposite ends, and opposite sides;
5 an upper wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending
opposite ends, and opposite sides; and
a vertically extending stanchion having a lower end supported by
said top of said lower wall panel and an upper end supporting a bottom of said
upper wall panel, wherein said upper wall panel overlies said lower wall panel,
10 and said bottom of said upper wall panel is spaced apart from said top of said
lower wall panel to form an open space between said upper and lower wall panels.

2. The invention of claim 1 further comprising a horizontally
extending rail supported on said upper end of said stanchion beneath said bottom
15 of said upper wall panel.

3. The invention of claim 1 further comprising a cover covering at
least a portion of the space formed between said top of said lower wall panel and
said bottom of said upper wall panel.
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4. The invention of claim 1 further comprising a post extending
upwardly from said stanchion, and wherein said bottom of said upper wall panel
has an opening, wherein said post is disposed in said opening.

25 5. The invention of claim 1 further comprising a draw member
connecting said upper wall panel and said stanchion.

6. The invention of claim 5 further comprising a connector member
disposed on said top of said upper wall panel, wherein an upper end of said draw
30 member is connected to said connector member.

7. The invention of claim 5 wherein said connector member comprises a laterally extending alignment tab.

5 8. The invention of claim 4 wherein said post has a frusto-conical shape.

9. The invention of claim 1 wherein said upper wall panel is a first upper wall panel and further comprising a second upper wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends and opposite side surfaces, and
10 wherein said stanchion is a first stanchion, and further comprising a second stanchion comprising an upper and lower end, wherein said second stanchion is disposed between said first upper wall panel and said second upper wall panel with said lower end of said second stanchion supported on said top of said first
15 upper wall panel and said upper end of said second stanchion supporting said bottom of said second upper wall panel.

10. The invention of claim 9 wherein said second stanchion comprises a pair of laterally extending, vertically offset and horizontally staggered alignment
20 members.

11. The invention of claim 9 wherein said second stanchion comprises an upwardly extending post, and wherein said bottom of said second upper wall panel has an opening, wherein said post of said second stanchion is disposed in
25 said opening of said second upper wall panel.

12. The invention of claim 11 further comprising a draw member connecting said second upper wall panel and said second stanchion.

30 13. The invention of claim 9 further comprising a draw member connecting said first and second stanchions.

14. The invention of claim 1 further comprising a first draw block connected with said lower wall panel, an insert engaged with said first draw block, a second draw block engaged with said upper wall panel, and a draw rod connecting said insert and said second draw block.

15. The invention of claim 14 wherein said first draw block has a cavity defined in part by a shoulder, and wherein said insert comprises a shoulder disposed in said cavity and engaged with said draw block shoulder.

16. The invention of claim 2 further comprising an electrical harness supported by said rail.

17. The invention of claim 2 wherein said stanchion comprises an upper surface supporting said bottom of said upper wall panel, wherein said rail has a bottom with an upper surface, and wherein said upper surface of said stanchion is positioned above said upper surface of said bottom of said rail.

18. The invention of claim 1 wherein said stanchion comprises at least one alignment tab extending upwardly therefrom, and wherein said upper panel engages said alignment tab.

19. The invention of claim 18 wherein one of said opposite ends of said upper panel engages said alignment tab.

20. The invention of claim 1 wherein said second stanchion comprises at least one alignment tab extending upwardly therefrom and at least one alignment tab extending downwardly therefrom, wherein said upper panel engages said at least one upwardly extending alignment tab and wherein said lower panel engages said at least one downwardly extending alignment tab.

21. The invention of claim 20 wherein one of said opposite ends of said upper panel engages said at least one upwardly extending alignment tab and wherein said one of said opposite ends of said lower panel engages said at least one downwardly extending alignment tab.

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22. The invention of claim 9 wherein said second stanchion comprises at least one alignment tab extending upwardly therefrom and at least one alignment tab extending downwardly therefrom, wherein said second upper panel engages said at least one upwardly extending alignment tab and wherein said first upper panel engages said at least one downwardly extending alignment tab.

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23 The invention of claim 22 herein one of said opposite sides of said second upper panel engages said upwardly extending alignment tab and wherein said one of said opposite ends of said first upper panel engages said at least one downwardly extending alignment tab.

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24. The invention of claim 14 wherein said first draw block is engaged with an upper portion of said lower wall panel and further comprising a third draw block engaged with a lower portion of said lower wall panel and a second draw rod extending between and connecting said first and third draw blocks.

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25. The invention of claim 24 further comprising a corner post having an upper and lower portion, wherein said third draw block engages said lower portion of said corner post, said second draw block engages said upper portion of said corner post and said first draw block engages said corner post intermediate said upper and lower portions.

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26. The invention of claim 9 wherein said second stanchion comprises a plate member.

27. The invention of claim 3 wherein said cover comprises a bracket releasably connected to said stanchion and a cover panel connected to said bracket.

28. The invention of claim 27 wherein said bracket comprises a lower tab member engaged with said lower end of said stanchion and an upper tab member engaged with said upper end of said stanchion, wherein at least one of said lower and upper tabs is releasably engaged with said lower and upper ends of said stanchion respectively, wherein said cover can be moved to expose said open space between said upper and lower panels when at least one of said lower and upper tabs is disengaged from said lower and upper ends of said stanchion respectively.

29. The invention of claim 28 further comprising a vertically extending seal member connected to and extending outwardly from an outboard end of said bracket.

30. A stackable wall panel assembly comprising:
a first wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends, and opposite sides;
a second wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends, and opposite sides; and
each of said first and second wall panels comprising a pair of laterally extending, vertically offset and horizontally staggered alignment members;
wherein said second wall panel is disposed serially adjacent said first wall panel such that said alignment members on said first wall panel matingly interface with said alignment members on said second wall panel so as to serially align said first and second wall panels.

31. The invention of claim 30 wherein said first and second wall panels are upper wall panels disposed on a first and second lower wall panel.

32. The invention of claim 30 further comprising a first and second stanchion disposed on top of said first and second wall panels respectively,

wherein said alignment members extend laterally from each of said first and second stanchions.

5 33. The invention of claim 32 further comprising a third and fourth wall panel disposed on said first and second stanchions above said first and second wall panels respectively.

 34. A method for assembling a stackable wall panel assembly comprising:

10 providing a lower wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends, and opposite sides, an upper wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends, and opposite sides, and a vertically extending stanchion having an upper and lower end;

15 supporting said lower end of said stanchion on said top of said lower wall panel; and

 supporting said bottom of said upper wall panel on said upper end of said stanchion, wherein said upper wall panel overlies said lower wall panel, and wherein said top of said lower wall panel and said bottom of said upper wall panel form an open space therebetween.

20 35. The invention of claim 34 further comprising covering at least a portion of the space formed between said top of said lower wall panel and said bottom of said upper wall panel with a cover.

25 36. The invention of claim 34 further comprising a post extending upwardly from said stanchion, and wherein said bottom of said upper wall panel has an opening, wherein said supporting said bottom of said upper wall panel on said stanchion comprises disposing said post in said opening.

30 37. The invention of claim 34 further comprising a draw member, wherein said supporting said bottom of said upper wall panel on said stanchion

comprises connecting said upper wall panel and said stanchion with said draw member.

5 38. The invention of claim 37 further comprising a connector member disposed on said top of said upper wall panel, wherein said connecting said upper wall panel and said stanchion with said draw member comprises connecting said draw member to said connector member.

10 39. The invention of claim 38 wherein said connector member comprises a laterally extending alignment tab.

 40. The invention of claim 36 wherein said post has a frusto-conical shape.

15 41. The invention of claim 34 wherein said upper wall panel is a first upper wall panel and further comprising providing a second upper wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends and opposite side surfaces, and wherein said stanchion is a first stanchion, and further comprising providing a second stanchion comprising an upper and lower surface, and further
20 comprising supporting said lower surface of said second stanchion on said top of said first upper wall panel and supporting said bottom of said second upper wall panel on said upper surface of said second stanchion.

25 42. The invention of claim 41 wherein said second stanchion comprises a pair of laterally extending, vertically offset and horizontally staggered alignment members.

30 43. The invention of claim 41 wherein said second stanchion comprises an upwardly extending post, and wherein said bottom of said second upper wall panel has an opening, wherein said supporting said bottom of said second upper

wall panel on said upper surface of said second stanchion comprises disposing said post of said second stanchion in said opening of said second upper wall panel.

5 44. The invention of claim 41 further comprising providing a draw member, and wherein said supporting said bottom of said second upper wall panel on said upper surface of said second stanchion comprises connecting said second upper wall panel and said second stanchion with said draw member.

10 45. The invention of claim 41 further comprising a draw member connecting said first and second stanchions.

 46. The invention of claim 34 further comprising connecting a rail to said upper end of said stanchion.

15 47. The invention of claim 34 further comprising engaging said lower wall panel with a first draw block, connecting an insert to said first draw block, engaging said upper wall panel with a second draw block, and connecting said insert and said second draw block with a draw rod.

20 48. The invention of claim 49 wherein said second draw block has a cavity defined in part by a shoulder and said insert comprises a shoulder, and further comprising inserting said insert into said cavity and engaging said draw block shoulder with said insert shoulder.

25 49. The invention of claim 46 further comprising supporting an electrical harness with said rail.

30 50. The invention of claim 46 wherein said stanchion comprises an upper surface supporting said bottom of said upper wall panel, wherein said rail has a bottom with an upper surface, and wherein said upper surface of said stanchion is positioned above said upper surface of said bottom of said rail.

51. The invention of claim 34 wherein said stanchion comprises at least one alignment tab extending upwardly therefrom, and further comprising engaging said alignment tab with said upper panel and thereby positioning said upper panel on said stanchion.

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52. The invention of claim 34 wherein said stanchion comprises at least one alignment tab extending upwardly therefrom and at least one alignment tab extending downwardly therefrom, and further comprising engaging said at least one upwardly extending alignment tab with said upper panel and engaging said at least one downwardly extending alignment tab with said lower panel and thereby positioning said upper and lower panels relative to said stanchion.

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53. The invention of claim 41 wherein said second stanchion comprises at least one alignment tab extending upwardly therefrom and at least one alignment tab extending downwardly therefrom, and further comprising engaging said at least one upwardly extending alignment tab with said second upper panel and engaging said at least one downwardly extending alignment tab with said first upper panel and thereby positioning said first and second upper panels relative to said second stanchion.

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54. A stackable wall panel assembly comprising:

a lower wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends and opposite sides;

a first upper wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends and opposite sides;

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a first draw block connected to said lower wall panel, said first draw block having a cavity;

an insert releasably engaged with said first draw block;

a second draw block engaged with said upper wall panel; and

a draw rod connecting said insert and said second draw block.

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55. The invention of claim 54 wherein said first draw block comprises a cavity, and wherein said insert comprises a catch portion removeably received in said cavity.

5 56. The invention of claim 55 wherein said first draw block comprises a shoulder defining in part said cavity, and wherein said catch portion of said insert engages said first draw block shoulder so as to prevent movement therebetween in at least one direction.

10 57. The invention of claim 56 wherein said cavity is open on opposite sides of said first draw block, wherein said catch portion is moveably disposed in said cavity from said open side of said first draw block, and wherein said first draw block has an opening formed in opposite ends thereof, said end openings communicating with said cavity, and wherein said insert comprises a neck portion
15 extending through one of said end openings.

58. The invention of claim 57 wherein said insert further comprises a stop portion spaced from said catch portion, said stop portion engaging one of said ends of said first draw block to prevent movement therebetween in a direction
20 opposite to said at least one direction.

59. The invention of claim 57 wherein said draw rod is a first upper draw rod, and further comprising a lower draw rod extending through said other of said end openings of said first draw block.

25 60. The invention of claim 54 further comprising a second upper wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends and opposite sides, wherein said second upper wall panel is supported above said first upper wall panel, a third draw block engaged with said second upper wall panel, a
30 second insert releasably engaged with said second draw block, and a second draw rod connecting said second insert and said third draw block.

61. The invention of claim 60 wherein said second draw block comprises a cavity, and wherein said second insert comprises a catch portion removeably received in said cavity of said second draw block.

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62. The invention of claim 61 wherein said second draw block comprises a shoulder defining in part said cavity, and wherein said catch portion of said second insert engages said second draw block shoulder so as to prevent movement therebetween in at least one direction.

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63. The invention of claim 62 wherein said opposite end of said lower wall panel comprises a hanger bracket, wherein said first draw block engages an end of said hanger bracket.

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64. The invention of claim 56 wherein said cavity has an opening on at least one end shaped to receive said catch portion therethrough, and wherein said insert is rotatable between at least an engaged position wherein said catch portion engages said shoulder and a disengaged position wherein said catch portion is aligned with said opening for passage therethrough.

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65. A stackable wall panel assembly comprising:

a lower wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends, and opposite sides;

an upper wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending opposite ends, and opposite sides, said bottom of said upper wall panel disposed above said top of said lower wall panel;

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a lower connector post connected to said lower wall panel;

an upper connector post connected to said upper wall panel;

a spacer post disposed between said lower connector post and said upper connector post; and

a draw rod connecting said upper connector post and said lower connector post, said draw rod extending through said spacer post and clamping said spacer post between said upper connector post and said lower connector post.

5 66. The stackable wall panel assembly of claim 65 wherein said spacer post is attached to at least one of said lower connector post and said upper connector post independently of said clamping of said spacer post between said lower connector post and said upper connector post with said draw rod.

10 67. The stackable wall panel assembly of claim 66 wherein each of said spacer post and said upper connector post has at least a first and second opening, wherein said draw rod is disposed through one of said first and second openings in each of said spacer post and first upper connector post.

15 68. The stackable wall panel assembly of claim 67 wherein said lower connector post has at least a first and second opening, wherein a fastener is disposed in said other of said first and second openings in said spacer post and engages said other of said first and second openings in one of said lower connector post and said upper connector post, wherein said spacer post is attached to one of
20 said lower connector post and said upper connector post.

 69. The stackable wall panel assembly of claim 68 wherein said upper connector post has a pair of said at least said first and second openings disposed adjacent opposite ends of said upper connector post.

25 70. The stackable wall panel assembly of claim 65 wherein said upper connector post comprises at least four openings formed in one end thereof.

 71. The stackable wall panel assembly of claim 65 wherein said upper
30 connector post comprises a first upper connector post, said draw rod comprises a first draw rod, and said spacer post comprises a first spacer post, and further

comprising a second upper wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically
extending opposite ends, and opposite sides, wherein said second upper wall panel
is supported above said first upper wall panel, a second upper connector post
connected to said second upper wall panel, a second spacer post disposed between
5 said first and second upper connector posts, and a second draw rod connecting said
first and second upper connector posts, said second draw rod extending through
said second spacer post and clamping said second spacer post between said first
and second upper connector posts.

10 72. The stackable wall panel assembly of claim 71 wherein said second
spacer post is attached to said second upper connector post independently of said
clamping of said second spacer post between said first and second upper connector
posts.

15 73. The stackable wall panel assembly of claim 71 wherein each of said
second spacer post and said second upper connector post has at least a first and
second opening, wherein said second rod is disposed in one of said first and
second openings in each of said second spacer post and said second upper
connector post.

20 74. The stackable wall panel assembly of claim 73 wherein a fastener is
disposed in said other of said first and second opening in said second spacer post
and engages said other of said first and second opening in said second upper
connector post, wherein said second spacer post is attached to said second upper
25 connector post.

 75. The stackable wall panel assembly of claim 73 wherein said second
upper connector post has a pair of said at least said first and second openings
disposed adjacent opposite ends of said second upper connector post.

76. A stackable wall panel assembly comprising:
a wall panel comprising a top, a bottom, vertically extending
opposite ends, and opposite sides;
a vertically extending stanchion having a lower end supported by
said top of said lower wall panel and an upper end;
a top cap supported by said upper end of said stanchion, wherein
said top cap is spaced apart from said top of said wall panel to form an open space
between said wall panel and said top cap; and
a cover covering at least a portion of the open space formed
between said top of said wall panel and said top cap.

77. The invention of claim 76 further comprising a rail connected to
said upper end of said stanchion, wherein said rail comprises a pair of upwardly
extending side walls, wherein said top cap engages said side walls.

78. The invention of claim 76 wherein said cover comprises a bracket
releasably connected to said stanchion and a cover panel connected to said bracket.

79. The invention of claim 78 wherein said bracket comprises a lower
tab member engaged with said lower end of said stanchion and an upper tab
member engaged with said upper end of said stanchion, wherein at least one of
said lower and upper tabs is releasably engaged with said lower and upper ends of
said stanchion.

80. The invention of claim 77 further comprising an electric harness
attached to said rail and disposed in said open space between said top cap and said
wall panel.

81. A connector post for a stackable wall panel assembly including a lower wall panel and an upper wall panel disposed above the lower wall panel, the connector post comprising:

5 a lower connector post adapted to be connected to the lower wall panel;

an upper connector post adapted to be connected to the upper wall panel;

a spacer post disposed between said lower connector post and said upper connector post; and

10 a draw rod connecting said upper connector post and said lower connector post, said draw rod extending through said spacer post and clamping said spacer post between said upper connector post and said lower connector post.

82. The connector post of claim 81 wherein said spacer post is attached to at least one of said lower connector post and said upper connector post independently of said clamping of said spacer post between said lower connector post and said upper connector post with said draw rod.

83. The connector post of claim 82 wherein each of said spacer post and said upper connector post has at least a first and second opening, wherein said draw rod is disposed through one of said first and second openings in each of said spacer post and first upper connector post.

84. The connector post of claim 83 wherein said lower connector post has at least a first and second opening, wherein a fastener is disposed in said other of said first and second openings in said spacer post and engages said other of said first and second openings in one of said lower connector post and said upper connector post, wherein said spacer post is attached to one of said lower connector post and said upper connector post.

85. The connector post of claim 84 wherein said upper connector post has a pair of said at least said first and second openings disposed adjacent opposite ends of said upper connector post.

5 86. The connector post of claim 81 wherein said upper connector post comprises at least four openings formed in at least one end thereof.

87. The connector post of claim 81 wherein said upper connector post comprises a first upper connector post, said draw rod comprises a first draw rod,
10 and said spacer post comprises a first spacer post, and further comprising a second upper connector post disposed above said first connector post, a second spacer post disposed between said first and second upper connector posts, and a second draw rod connecting said first and second upper connector posts, said second draw rod extending through said second spacer post and clamping said second spacer
15 post between said first and second upper connector posts.

88. The connector post of claim 87 wherein said second spacer post is attached to said second upper connector post independently of said clamping of said second spacer post between said first and second upper connector posts.

20 89. The connector post of claim 87 wherein each of said second spacer post and said second upper connector post has at least a first and second opening, wherein said second rod is disposed in one of said first and second openings in each of said second spacer post and said second upper connector post.

25 90. The connector post of claim 89 wherein a fastener is disposed in said other of said first and second opening in said second spacer post and engages said other of said first and second opening in said second upper connector post, wherein said second spacer post is attached to said second upper connector post.

91. The connector post of claim 89 wherein said second upper connector post has a pair of said at least said first and second openings disposed adjacent opposite ends of said second upper connector post.